

The Hong Kong Daily Press

No. 6679 紙九十七百六十五號

日一月正午子丙戌光

HONGKONG SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 1876.

六年

第五

港

[PRICE \$24 PER MONTH.]

Arrivals.

February 4, BOWES, British str., S44, Thomas Park, Sydney 31st December, Brisbane 6th January, Rockhampton 7th, Bowen 8th, Townsville 9th, Coolum 10th, Somerset 12th, and Singapore 23rd, General—GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., February 4, CAR HOEN, German bark, 401, Green, Bangkok 12th December, Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco & Co.

February 4, AVAURUS, German bark, 290, S. A. Bush, Cardiff 18th September, Coal—ORDER.

February 4, ASCORD, Russian man-of-war, 2,200, Tiflif, Nagasaki 22nd January, February 4, HIRSHMAN, British str., 391, T. S. Gardner, Calcutta 19th Jan., Penang 24th, and Singapore 25th, 1,135, cheetah, Opium, 3,588, Balas Cotton, and Sundries—D. SASSOON, Sons & Co.

February 4, ARGEL, British str., 1,271, D. Scott, Caledon 19th January, Penang 25th, and Singapore 28th, General—JARDINE, MACKINNON & CO.

February 4, ASIA MINER, French bark, 381, Gauvin, Bangkok 24th November, Rice—LANDSTECK & CO.

February 4, ARAZOO, AFGHAN, British str., 959, R. CAS, Bangkok 25th January, General—SHIMMINS & CO.

February 4, JAMES VINTON, British str., 680, Peter Pherson, Paw 24th Dec., Ratnas and Ebony Wood—ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

February 4, MARINA, British bark, 563, Jean Landon 4th September, General—ARMOLD, KIEPERG & CO.

Clearances.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE, FEBRUARY 4TH.

NORMA, str., for Swatow.

DANUBE, str., for Bangkok.

Departures.

3, LOCHIEL, for Whampoa.

BOMBAY, str., for Colombo.

4, FU-YEW, str., for Shanghai.

4, GOLCONDA, str., for Shanghai.

Passengers.

ARRIVED.

Per BOEK, str., from Sydney, 4th—

212 Chinese.

Per ARGYL, str., from Calcutta, 2nd—

Mrs. BURT, 2 Europeans, deck, and 20 Chinese.

Per ARAZOO, str., from Bangkok—

Per HIRSHMAN, str., from Calcutta, 2nd—

Mrs. T. S. GARDNER, Major Powter, Surgeon, Major Turton, Surgeon Harry, Mr. Lively, and 63 Chinese, deck.

DEPARTED.

Per GOLCONDA, str., for Shanghai—

Per NORMA, str., for Swatow—

100 Chinese.

Per DANUBE, str., for Bangkok—

20 Chinese.

Reports.

The Russian man-of-war *Decol* reports left Nagasaki on 28th January, and had fresh N.E. winds throughout.

The British bark *James Vinton* reports left Faso on 24th December, and had strong monsoon and heavy weather throughout.

The German bark *Cape Horn* reports left Bangkok on 12th December, and had fresh N.E. monsoon and high seas the whole of the passage from Faso to.

The French bark *Arie Minors* reports left Bangkok on 24th November, and had moderate N.E. winds the most of the passage, then a few days light winds.

The British steamship *Argyll* reports left Calcutta on 19th January, Penang on the 25th, and Singapore on the 28th, and had fine weather in the Straits; from thence to arrival fresh monsoon and fine weather.

The British steamship *Arden* reports left Faso on 4th December, and experienced moderate N.E. winds and heavy seas the whole of the passage from Faso to.

The British steamship *Arden* reports left Faso on 28th January at 7 p.m. Experienced hard monsoon and heavy head seas to the Parcels; from thence fine weather and moderate breezes.

The German bark *Asiat* reports left Faso on 18th September, had moderate winds to the Equator; from thence good S.E. winds, and steady winds through the Eastern Passage light winds to North of the Equator. From Samang Island North Easterly winds to the Coast of China, then N.E. and Easterly winds to port.

The British steamship *Arden* reports left Calcutta on 19th January, arrived at Penang on the 24th, and left again on the 25th; arrived at Singapore on the 27th, and had fine weather throughout. After leaving Singapore experienced strong N.E. monsoon and heavy up to Pulo Sapatia, and from thence to arrival moderate monsoon and fine weather. Was detained four hours outside en route of fog.

The British steamship *Arden* reports left Sydney on 31st December; arrived at Brisbane 1st January, and left again on the 4th; arrived at Townsville on the 9th, Good Hope on the 10th, and Singapore on the 12th; arrived at Singapore on the 22nd, and left again on the 23rd, and arrived at Hongkong on 4th February at 7 a.m. From Australia to Singapore had heavy head winds and much rain. From Singapore to Hongkong strong N.E. monsoon throughout.

The British bark *Moravia* reports left London on the 11th Sept.; from thence to the 19th had fine weather and Westerly winds. Until the 24th had a heavy gale from the S.W.; from thence to the Equator, which was crossed on the 26th October, had moderate N.E. winds and fine weather, fine winds to the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope, and heavy up to Cape Agulhas on the 14th November; in lat. 42° S. had N.W. winds. Running down the Hastings had heavy Northwesterly winds and confused sea. Sighted Sandalwood Island on the 22nd December; from thence through the Eastern Passage to lat. N. had a continuation of light air and calm, and constant rain. After passing Gooey, experienced heavy N.E. winds; from thence had N.W. winds, and again on the 28th December, and again on the 1st January, had N.W. winds and thick, dirty weather. On 28th December spoke the Norwegian bark *Rapua* from New York to Yokohama, 130 days out, of Qubay. The American bark *Nelly Mervyn*, from New York to Yokohama, 179 days out. The British ship *Ledstone Castle*, from Liverpool to Japan, 17th December, and had fine weather throughout. On 6th January, after ship made land, bound bound to Shanghai. Saw the bark *Anton Günther* on the 6th January, bound North.

Auction Sales To-day.

J. K. G. B. D. E. S. JR.,
At 2 P.M.,
Household Furniture, &c.
1881 Hongkong, 26th December, 1876.

To be Let.

TO BE LET.—
WITH IMMEDIATE Possession,
THE HOUSE No. 7, Gough Street, Apply
to GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
1478, Hongkong, 26th September, 1876.

A FIRST-CLASS GODOWN
on the Praya, Wanchoi.

APPLY TO S. E. BURROWS & SONS,
443, Hongkong, 25th March, 1876.

TO LET.

THE Promises known as "THE WOOD-LANDS" newly painted and in Good Order. Apply to REMEDIOS & CO., 131, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1876.

TO LET.

With Immediate Possession,
THE HOUSES, Nos. 2 and 4, Praya East,
and Queen's Road Central, 1883, Hongkong, 10th November, 1876.

TO LET.

With Immediate Possession,
THE DWELLING-HOUSE, with Garden,
No. 1, Stanley Street, lately in the occupation
of Messrs. DIBBLE & CO.

TO LET.

With Immediate Possession,
TWO DWELLING-HOUSES AND OFFICES,
Nos. 14 and 15, Stanley Street, lately in
the occupation of Messrs. RAY & CO.

For all particulars, apply to ROBERT G. ALFORD,
Surveyor, One Chamberlain,
1m 124, Hongkong, 1st January, 1876.

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NOW READY.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

FOR 1876.

With which is incorporated

THE CHINA DIRECTORY.

THIS Work, in the FOURTEENTH year of its existence, is

NOW READY FOR SALE.

It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1876" contains a

CHROMOLITHOGRAPH

OF A

PLAN OF VICTORIA, HONGKONG;

THE

FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF

SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the

NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT

THE PEAK;

also of

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS

(Designed expressly for the Work.)

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,

THE

P. & O. COMPANY'S ROUTES,

AND

THE COAST OF CHINA;

ALSO, THE

NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE—

HONGKONG;

besides other local information and statistics connected to date of publication, tending to make this Work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices. The present Volume also contains a Directory of Singapore.

The CHRONICLE and DIRECTORY is now the only publication of its kind for China and Japan.

The "Directory" is published in two Parts—Complete at \$5; or, with the Lists of Residents, Port Directories, Maps, &c., at \$3.

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NANKING.....Messrs. Hall & Holtz.

SHANGHAI.....Messrs. Kelly & Co.

HANKOW.....Messrs. Hall & Holtz and Kelly

RIVER PORTS

& Co., Shanghai.

CHEFOU.....Messrs. Hall & Holtz and Kelly

& Co., Shanghai.

TIENTIN and KIEN.....Messrs. Hall & Holtz

& Co., Shanghai.

NAGASAKI.....The C. and T. Trading Co.

OKINAWA.....Messrs. Hall & Holtz.

YOKOHAMA.....Messrs. Line, Crawford & Co.

YOKOHAMA.....Mr. C. D. Ross, Japan Gazette

Office.

MANILA.....Messrs. S. P. Martin & Co.

37 Park Row,

Hongkong, January 3rd, 1876.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 5TH, 1876.

As might have been expected, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce finds no cause for going into transports over the announcement of the opening to trade of the port of Kiung-chow. It is satisfactory in some degree, but the Chamber would have preferred the selection of a port on the mainland, Pat-ho-kai to wit. Still, if it should prove that the step is to be taken as the inauguration of a new line of policy towards China, and that for the future the British Government intend to insist upon the observance by China of all her Treaty obligations, the opening of Kiung-chow may, the Chamber thinks, be regarded as a subject for congratulation. Precisely so, and this is just the value that may be put upon the right just enforced by the British Government. Recent events have, there is good reason to believe, convinced Lord Derby that the adoption of a firm policy toward the Peking Government is the only way of maintaining satisfactory relations with China. Since his advent to office there have been afforded some very convincing proofs that, in temporizing policy leads to endless encroachments on the part of the Chinese, and breeds in them contempt of the foreigners who will yield readily to their crafty representations. The shuffling attitude assumed by them over the MARGARET traged, the continued delay of the inquiry, and the unwillingness to undertake the punishment of the instigators of the outrage, all evidenced plainly enough that the Authorities at Peking were anxious to shirk their responsibilities. The unhappy affair has undoubtedly been the means of calling closer attention by the British Government to the systematic ravages in

the Chinese have for years past not only evaded their obligations to foreigners, but in numerous cases openly violated the stipulations of the Treaties. Little by little Lord Derby has opened his eyes to the manifold grievances which the British mercantile communities in China have so long fruitlessly complained of. The blockade of Hongkong by the Hippo of Canton's cruisers has also been brought to his notice, and the injury done to the trade of this Colony thereby forcibly stated. From the official communications made public at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, it is tolerably certain that some decisive action will be taken in respect to the matter. The seizure of the steamer *Christobal*, as we intimated a few days back, doubtless was the immediate cause which led to the opening of Kiung-chow, and it may be accepted as a proof of the determination of the British Government to be no longer trifled with by the wily and proclamating statesmen of Peking.

The course taken by the Telegraph Companies in raising their tariff at the commencement of the present year was most impolitic. It is questionable whether, considering the

state of trade in all parts of the East, it would not have been advisable to announce a reduction in rates; but it ought to have been apparent to the directors of these companies that any increase would be regarded with great disfavour by merchants in India, China, and Japan. At the present time, when most people are trying to reduce their expenditure, and economy is the order of the day, it is certainly vexatious to have the telegraph rates raised. The effect of the changes inaugurated at the ultimate war, it appears, is to raise the rates per word to and from China from 6d. to 12d. 6d., and to and from Japan from 7d. to 17d. 9d. Not only have the changes made raised great opposition out here, but they have been much discussed, and in no favourable spirit, in England. At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, the speakers expressed themselves both dissatisfied and disappointed with the new rules and arrangements, which were denounced as not only vexatious but absurd. The Times, in writing on the subject, says:—

"Any direct or indirect attempt to suppress the code system should certainly be resisted with all the influence the mercantile community can bring to bear. Whatever may be the meaning of a number of letters or figures does not concern the company in the slightest degree. They charge so much for certain signs, and have their business with those signs out. The Telegraph Companies will set us right, we think, in paying heed to the hostile comments passed upon the changes they have effected in their system. The increased tariff may pay them better, and they doubtless have some good reasons for raising the rates, but they must bear in mind that by so they invite opposition. Already it is announced that a prospectus has been issued of a new company, to be called the 'China Merchants' Telegraph Association,' for the purpose of connecting India by telegraph via Messina, Alexandria, Aden, and Bombay, the rate to be 3s per word. Should this company really start in undoubtedly be a formidable competitor, and the Eastern Extension Company would be compelled to reduce its rates, or lose much of its traffic. It would be far better to grant an immediate and voluntary concession to the mercantile community than, by refusal, to allow opposition and court defeat. In the meantime the merchant generally will probably do what the Hon. P. Rivers announced on Thursday was his intent, cut down the expenses under this head. The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will, it is to be presumed, shortly address a remonstrance to the Companies on the subject. It is to be hoped that it will meet with due consideration at their hands, and that such concessions will be granted as may remove all ground for the establishment of a rival company.

The following translation from the Soobabys Circular of the 10th ultimo contains particulars respecting some of the Chinese passengers on board the *Broadway* who were given up to the American Red Cross Society. Some of these Chinese, who came from the gold mines, wished to settle again in their native country in order to lead a quiet life on their savings, or to endeavor to increase their capital besides. Five of them who probably had embarked in the *Broadway* for that purpose, fell however, victim to the want of money, on account of the delay in the arrival of the vessel. They had failed to find the passage to Singapore, and the consequence of that vessel, "Dove," will possibly appear for this last time in Hongkong this Saturday evening. A very attractive programme is announced, and the secret of the box and cabinet illusions will be exposed and explained.The following translation from the Soobabys Circular of the 10th ultimo contains particulars respecting some of the Chinese passengers on board the *Broadway* who were given up to the American Red Cross Society. Some of these Chinese, who came from the gold mines, wished to settle again in their native country in order to lead a quiet life on their savings, or to endeavor to increase their capital besides. Five of them who probably had embarked in the *Broadway* for that purpose, fell however, victim to the want of money, on account of the delay in the arrival of the vessel. They had failed to find the passage to Singapore, and the consequence of that vessel, "Dove," will possibly appear for this last time in Hongkong this Saturday evening. A very attractive programme is announced, and the secret of the box and cabinet illusions will be exposed and explained.

The Circulars at Melbourne on the 30th December from Hongkong.

The French steamship arrived at Sydney, from Foochow, on the 9th December.

The bark *Admiral Model* arrived at Melbourne on the 8th December from Foochow.The bark *May Queen* arrived at Melbourne from Foochow on the 9th December.

The Victory sailed from Newcastle, New South Wales, for Hongkong, on December 28th.

The *Dunay* (French bark) arrived at Melbourne, from Foochow on the 9th December.

The Augusta sailed from Newcastle, New South Wales, for Hongkong, on December 14th.

The *Dorset* (Danish bark), and the *Ferryman*, arrived at Sydney on the 5th December, both from Foochow.The Eastern and Australian Steamship Company's steamer *Singapore* arrived at Brisbane on the 31st December.

Dove Carson gave another performance on Thursday, evening to a very appreciative audience. The "Bengale Baboo" was one of the greatest attractions of the night, and the impersonation which received the loudest applause. We will send our readers the details of this last "Dove," will possibly appear for this last time in Hongkong this Saturday evening. A very attractive programme is announced, and the secret of the box and cabinet illusions will be exposed and explained.

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SALES ON FEBRUARY 4TH, AS REPORTED BY

CHINAMAN.

Gam Olifan—35 cases at \$4.00, by Kwong-wing-shing to travelling trader.

Dried Lily Flowers—20 bags, \$7.00, by Kwong-wing-shing to travelling trader.

Brown Sugar—40 bags at \$3.50, by Kwong-wing-shing to local trader.

Pineapple—40 bags at \$3.00, by Kwong-wing-shing to local trader.

Dried Lily Flowers—20 bags, at \$7.00, by Chinamong to travelling trader.

Vermicelli—50 bags at \$7.50, by Chinamong to travelling trader.

Sago—500 pieces at \$1.50, by Chinamong to travelling trader.

Cotton Seeds—900 bags at \$3.65, by Kwong-wing-shing to travelling trader.

Rattans—100 pieces, at \$2.50, by Hop-hing to travelling trader.

Anv.—"Berkley, Sept. 1869.—Gentlemen, I feel it a duty to you to express my gratitude for the great courtesy and attention you have shown me. I had the pleasure of calling on Mr. H. H. H. [sic] for the above named Hills, for wind in the stomach, from which I suffered excruciating pain for a length of time. After taking your pills, but without effect, during many hours at all, after taking them, I was quite restored to my usual state of health. Please give this publicity for the benefit of other patients.—Yours very truly, HENRY ALLARD.—To the Proprietors of the COMONILLS PILLS." (1868-1869 Aug. 21)

For Sale.

FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER.

S A Y L E & C O.

BEG to call attention to their Stock of GOODS (in the following Departments) suitable for the present and coming Seasons.

TAILORING DEPARTMENT.
Black and Blue Berlin COATINGS
NOVELTIES in OBI-OBVIOUS and HOME-SKINS (suit lengths only).A good selection of new Patterns in TROUSERS.
A few Vest lengths of Fancy Berlin VEST-
ING.This Blue SUEZ, suitable for present
wear.White CRICKETING FLANNELS of va-
rious textures.Oxford TWILL, SILK and WOOL, and
ALL WOOL PAJAMA SUITS.

DRESSING GOWNS, &c., &c.

Gentlemen may rely upon their orders being
executed with the utmost care and despatch.

OUTFITTING DEPARTMENT.

Latest Shapes in Black and Drab FELT

LUBECK FIRM INSURANCE COMPANY
OF LUBEC.THE Undersigned having been appointed
General Agents for the above Com-
pany, are prepared to accept risks against Fire
at current rates, subject to a discount of 20%.EDWARD SORELHAGG & CO.,
222, General Agents.THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND
FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF
BATAVIA.THE Undersigned, having been appointed
Agents in Hongkong for the above Com-
pany, call SPECIAL ATTENTION to
SHIPPERS to the low rates of premium
charged for all steamer risks, besides which a
Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE and ONE
-TENTH PER CENT. (33 1/10%) will be allowed
on risks to ports in China, Japan, the Philip-
pines, and the Straits. On risks to all other
ports the Brokerage will be FIFTEEN PER
CENT. (15%) only.SIEMSEN & CO.,
Agents.

at 1028 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND
SPECIAL ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

Established 1809.

CAPITAL—\$2,000,000.

THE Undersigned, Agents at Hongkong for
the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies
against FIRE, to the extent of \$10,000
on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same,
at the usual rates, subject to a discount of
Twenty per cent. (20%).GILMAN & CO.,
Agents.

at 1063 Hongkong, 7th July, 1874.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to GRANT
POLICIES AGAINST FIRE, to the extent of
\$10,000 Dollars on Buildings or on
Goods stored therein, at Current Local Rates,
subject to a Discount of 20%, on the premia-
tions of NORTON & CO., Agents.

at 8 Hongkong, January, 1875.

POSITIVE GOVERNMENT SECURITY
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.CHAS. H. MORGAN,
Agent.

iy 944 Hongkong, 18th June, 1875.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.THE Undersigned Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to grant Policies
against FIRE to the extent of \$6,000 on any one
FIRST-CLASS RISK.

A RETURN of TWENTY PER CENT. (20%),

will be made on the premium charged on all
Insurance, such Return being payable on the
issue of the Policy.GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
Agents.

Imperial Fire Insurance Company,

333 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIA-
TION OF SHANGHAI.

NOTICE.

ON and after this date the above Association
will allow a Brokerage of THIRTY-
THREE and ONE-THIRD PER CENT.,
33 1/3% on Local Risks only.RUSSELL & CO.,
Agents.

at 1800 Hongkong, 4th June, 1874.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE
INSURANCE COMPANY.HAROM this date, until further notice, a dis-
count of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the
current local rate of premium will be allowed
upon insurance effected with this Company.DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.,
Agents.

at 117 Hongkong, 5th November, 1875.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to GRANT INSURANCES at Current
Rates.MULCHIE & CO.,
Agents.HONGKONG DISTILLERY CO.,
1209 Hongkong, 6th August, 1875.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to grant Policies
against FIRE to the extent of \$6,000 on any one
FIRST-CLASS RISK.

A RETURN of TWENTY PER CENT. (20%),

will be made on the premium charged on all
Insurance, such Return being payable on the
issue of the Policy.GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
Agents.

Imperial Fire Insurance Company,

333 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIA-
TION OF SHANGHAI.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to grant Insurance as follows—

MARINE RISKS.

Policies at current rates, payable either here-
in London, or at the principal Ports of India,
Australia, and the East.A BROKERAGE of THIRTY-THREE and ONE-
THIRD PER CENT. will be allowed on all LOCAL
RISKS.

A Discount of 20% allowed.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.,
Agents.

45 Hongkong, 9th January, 1875.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pro-
pared to grant INSURANCES at Current
Rates.MULCHIE & CO.,
Agents.HONGKONG DISTILLERY CO.,
1209 Hongkong, 28th October, 1874.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pro-
pared to grant INSURANCES at Current
Rates.DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.,
Agents.

112 Hongkong, 27th June, 1875.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
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Rates.DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.,
Agents.

112 Hongkong, 5th November, 1875.

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NOTICE.

Extracts.

APASSIONATO.

BY RAYARD TAYLOR.
Was it a dream?
Was it a vision?—
Or that long sleep call the nightmare?
Is beauty ever hidden,
Filling with hidden sin all the vale?
Oh! I have again the tale,
And call on her whose name returns, sublimed,
A loosing of the robe,
An Adelphic!

For white the sprinkled dove,
Sparkle, and wait, and glam,
Adelphic!

Darkness and perfume leave the balsacorn here
Between the cypress, pine, and lime,
And thou art free,

Adelphic!

Less than a name, a melody, art thou,
A hope, a hunting vow!

The vision-clown
Spirit thy bower,

Crowned with his own crown when I claim thee now,

Adelphic!

Take form, at last from those o'erhanging branches
Descent, or from the gross aerial!

I come shall see things eyes

Or know thy secret, when I stand beneath:

But all my heart's entreaty thou shall be!

Filled with thy mystery!

SEASIDE.

Their food consists of fish, molluscs, crabs and sea-fowl, especially penguins, which they catch in a most ingenious way. They lie motionless in the water, with only a small portion of their nose above the surface. This attracts the attention of the bird, which mistakes it for something eatable, and approaching to catch it, falls a prey to the craft of its adversary. It is a curious and remarkable fact that a quantity of pebbles are always found in their stomachs.

It is said that more than twenty pounds have been taken from an old male of one of the larger species, and that individual stones weighed half a pound at least. On the Californian coast, the same peculiarity has been observed with regard to the sea elephant. The sailors there believe it to be ballast, and assert that it is swallowed when the animals are "going down"—i.e., returning to the sea, after their sojourn on the land; and one traveller asserts that he has seen a female instructing her cub to swallow a proper quantity.

It has further been stated that when they return to land, they eject it, and an officer in the navy asserted that he has seen a sealion at the Falklands engaged in the operation of "discharging ballast." A late observer has examined the additional fact based on his own observation and careful questioning of natives—that in every stomach there is a cluster of parasitic worms, varying in size from that of a walnut to that of a man's fist; and he conjectures that the stones may be swallowed by the animal in the hope of getting rid of these pests. *Contemporary Review.*

MENTAL DEVELOPMENT.

One of the most remarkable features of mental development, characteristic according to circumstances, of mental growth and of mental decay, is the change of taste for mental food of various kinds. Every one must be conscious of the fact that books, and the subjects of thought, lose the interest they once had, making way for others of a different nature.

The favourite author, whose words we read and re-read with continual fresh enjoyment in youth, appears dull and uninteresting as the mind grows, and becomes inaudible in advanced years. And this is not merely the effect of familiarity. I knew one who was never tired of reading the works of a famous modern novelist until the age of twenty-five; and thereafter, when it chanced that he was placed in circumstances which caused novel reading to be an infrequent occupation, and in point of fact certain works of this author were not opened by him for ten or twelve years. He supposed, when the end of time took up one of these works, that he should find over more than the pleasure he formerly had in reading it, since the story would now have something of novelty for him, and he had once thoroughly enjoyed it even when he almost knew the work by heart. But he no longer found the work in the least interesting; the humour seemed forced, the pathos affected, the eloquence false; in short, belied his taste for it.

In the meantime the works of another equally famous humourist had acquired a new value in his estimation. They had formerly seemed rather heavy reading; now, every sentence gave enjoyment. They appeared now as books not to be merely tasted or swallowed, but as Bacon hath it, "to be chewed and digested."

The change here described indicated, in accordance at least with the accepted estimate of the novelist and humorist in question) an increase of mental power. But a distaste for particular writings may imply the decay of mental power. And also, more generally, a tendency to disengagement is a very common indication of advancing mental age. "The old brain," says Wendell Holmes, "thinks the world grows worse, as the old reigns think the eyes of needful and the fractions in the printed sales of stocks grow smaller."

Science Essays: by Richard A. Proctor.

CIRCUS CELEBRITIES.

From the Anglo-Saxon period to about the middle of the 17th century, the nearest approximation to circus performances was afforded by the "glee-men" and the exhibitors of bears that traversed a dance, and horses that bore a kettledrum with their fore feet. Some of the "glee-men" were tumblers and jugglers. There were female acrobats in those days, as appears from a drawing in one of the Sloane collection of manuscripts. One of the Arundel manuscripts also, in the British Museum, shows a dancing bear, and other illumination of a later date represent a horse on the tight rope, and an ox standing on the back of a horse. A curious account is added of a rope-dancing fest performed by a Spaniard, in the reign of Edward VI, at Stratford-on-Avon, from the seventh volume of the *Archæological Register*, which was "stretched from the battlements of Paul's steple, and with a great anchor at the end fastened before the Dean of Paul's house gate." The King was present at the performance. In the reign of Elizabeth, there

was a "stretcher from the top of the tower of Newgate, which was 100 feet high."

Sadler was one of the first

of the

of the